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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON ROBERT ZOELICK'S VISIT TO CENTRAL  
AMERICA, OCTOBER 1, 2003

[1](#). Editorial in Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" on  
10/1 entitled "Softening". "This week, USTR Robert Zoellick is  
visiting Central America in an attempt to convince the regional  
governments of the need to make progress on CAFTA negotiations."

"In addition, Zoellick will try to dissuade Guatemala and Costa  
Rica from taking part in the G-22, which includes other Latin  
American countries led by Brazil. This group proposed the total  
elimination of agricultural subsidies during the latest WTO  
meeting in Cancun, an issue that has been a nuisance for  
Washington."

"During his trip to the region, Zoellick will meet with the  
Central American presidents, the Ministers of Economy,  
Congressmen, CAFTA negotiators, businessmen and civil society  
representatives, trying to soften the position of these sectors  
by stressing the benefits Central America will obtain through a  
free trade agreement with the U.S."

Palmer